

MANUAL OF OBSTETRICS. By EDWARD P. DAVIS, A.M., M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor of Obstetrics in the Jefferson Medical College. Second edition. Pp. 478; 163 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1919.

THERE is undoubtedly a definite place in the medical library for the books known as manuals which are usually of such a nature as to place them between quiz compends and complete text-books. The scope of the volume under consideration is such that the book may be said to be a text-book of obstetrics compressed into a manual. Although it is of a very convenient size it is remarkable how much of real value has been embraced by the author. Of the new material that has been introduced into this edition, anesthesia in labor and the Porro operation are the most practical articles and are well handled. It seems a bit humorous, however, to note that one of the points mentioned in the differential diagnosis of *early* pregnancy is that the fetal movements may be felt and the heart sounds heard *after the sixth month*. The treatment of the early toxemia by means of corpus luteum injections is not mentioned although such procedures as amputation of both breasts and renal decapsulation in the treatment of eclampsia are dignified by their inclusion. The book should continue to be a valuable aid to students who want facts and want them quickly. F. B. B.

ANALES DE LA ACADEMIA DE CIENCIAS MEDICAS FISICAS Y
NATURALES DE LA HABANA, Tom. lv, 1918-1919.

"The Schistosomum Mansoni in Venezuela," Dr. John Guiteras, page 22. Dr. Guiteras calls attention to the recent work of Dr. Juan Iturbe, of Caracas, who discovered the intermediate host of Schistosomum mansoni, planorbis Guadelupensis, and points out the danger of the immigration into Cuba of Chinese, Japanese, Jamaicans and Haitians, among whom the infection is common.

Dr. Agramontes, in the discussion of Dr. Guiteras's communication, calls attention to the discovery of Clonorchis sinensis for the first time in Cuba by Dr. P. L. Querens.

The "Influence of Animal Experimentation in the Progress of Medical Science," Dr. Aristides Agramontes, page 35. Dr. Agramontes, in a carefully prepared communication on the subject, after giving a brief historical sketch of the important discoveries made in medicine and physiology, based on animal experimentation, also emphasizes the erroneous attitude taken by antivivisectionists, on this point.

"The Microörganisms of Influenza," Dr. Leonel Plasencia, page 473. Dr. Plasencia claims to have discovered a new microörganism, Bacillus influenza motili, as the cause of influenza.

Dr. M. Martinez Dominguez, in a communication to the Academy, "Upon the Bacteriology of Grippe," page 560, shows by cultural characteristics and experiments on man that the bacillus of Dr. Plasencia is a microorganism related to *Bacillus cloacæ* and that it has no etiological significance to influenza.

Dr. Manuel Ruiz Casabo, in another communication to the Academy, "Notes upon the Present Epidemic of Influenza," page 449, regards the present epidemic of influenza as the classic influenza, or grippe, and that bacteriological investigations commonly show the presence of the *Bacillus influenza* of Pfeiffer in association with pneumococcus, staphylococcus and micrococcus catarrhalis.

"Etiology and Treatment of Strabismus," Dr. Francisco Fernandez, page 56. According to Dr. Fernandez, concomitant strabismus is the result of a defect in the proper fusion of the images in the brain. Muscular insufficiency, myopia, hypermetropia and other affections of the eye are only predisposing factors to strabismus.

"Concerning the Center for Hunger and Thirst," Dr. Jorge Le Roy, Dr. Jose Valdez Anciano and Dr. Felipe Garcia Cañizares, page 898. According to these authors, though the plexus of Auerbach is of importance, the center for hunger and thirst is in the medulla, the pneumogastric and splanchnic nerves acting as regulators.

D. R.

SYMPTOMS OF VISCERAL DISEASE. A STUDY OF THE VEGETATIVE NERVOUS SYSTEM IN ITS RELATIONSHIP TO CLINICAL MEDICINE. By FRANCIS MARION POTTENGER, A.M., M.D., LL.D., F.A.C.P., Medical Director, Pottenger Sanatorium for Diseases of the Lungs and Throat, Monrovia, Calif.; Professor of Diseases of the Chest, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Medical Department, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif. Pp. 317; 86 illustrations and 9 plates. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Company.

It is decidedly refreshing to pick up a book which is distinctly different from the average medical text-book, a book which deals with a phase of medicine which is considered but too briefly, if at all, in our present-day didactic text-books. In this book by Dr. Pottenger a new field has been opened up to those who have not followed carefully the work of Mackenzie, Head and several others. It is written by a man who, although a specialist in pulmonary diseases, has studied internal medicine not only from the one side of pulmonary diseases but from the many sides of diseases of all the organs. He well shows that it is impossible to have as a specialty the study of one organ, and, as he says, "the human body is a unit and one part cannot be diseased without affecting other parts. No organ can be understood except in its relationship to other organs in the body as a whole."